

May 4, 2012

Weekly Views

An Earth Day Tree Planting Ceremony was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility as the result of collaboration between the IDOC and Johnson Controls. The purpose of the event was to recognize the Department's sustainability efforts through our partnership with Johnson Controls and to highlight how we have reduced our carbon foot print. Commissioner Lemmon, along with Pendleton Juvenile Superintendent Linda Commons, Correctional Industrial Facility Superintendent Wendy Knight, IDOC staff, and representatives from Johnson Controls, assisted offenders from the facility's Horticulture class in planting 100 Blue Spruce tree saplings provided by Johnson Controls.

Congratulations to the Rockville Correctional Facility! With 19 staff, friends and family participating on Team DOC for the 2012 Race For The Cure, Rockville edged out Central Office by just one team member to win the challenge set out by Chief of Staff Copeland. Madison Correctional Complex comes in third with 16 participants. Special recognition goes to Joy Sedam of the Madison Correctional Facility for coordinating a local Race event for their team members, and to Elizabeth Weber of Correctional Industrial Facility for raising over \$1000! In total, Team DOC had 76 participants and has raised nearly \$2500 to support breast cancer detection, treatment, and research. Congratulations to all!

PEN Products re-entry department held a "Career Path Planning Workshop" at Westville Correctional Facility (WCC). 30 offenders were joined by 12 re-entry staff from Work One, Lake County Community Corrections, WCC and PEN Products. During the six hour workshop, participants took career based self assessments, worked through a time management scenario, and participated in a discussion and activity dealing with job retention.

Current Pacers forward David West and former Pacer Darnell Hillman spoke to 50 students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. West shared stories of his family and friends who have been incarcerated and discussed self-acceptance and attitude. West stated "Chances are you are going to commit a crime against someone who looks and acts like you. It's called self-hatred." Darnell Hillman discussed how "a positive attitude can help them take back power, because it shows they have control." West and Hillman also autographed pictures for staff and students.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility donated more than \$3,200 to the Sullivan County Brown Bagger School Food Program! Proceeds from the facility ARAMARK Fresh Favorite Community Involvement Fund made the gift possible. The money will help provide nutritious meals to 100 children on weekends, holidays and vacations

Fourteen students from DePauw University visited the Rockville Correctional Facility for a tour. The class, instructed by Ms. Rebecca Bordt, focuses on prisons and the students varied by major. Both students and teacher expressed interest in the ICAN, CLIFF and Hope Center programs and asked many intriguing questions about offenders' daily lives and classification.

Substance Abuse Director Chastity Montalvo and the CLIFF unit at the Plainfield Correctional Facility held a pizza sale for the offender population, and as a result, were able to contribute over \$2100 to the "Life After Meth" initiative.

Allison Green, counselor for the Indiana Women's Prison Wee Ones Nursery Program attended a luncheon at the Broadway United Methodist Church. The purpose of the visit was to provide church members an overview of the program and its benefits to the new mothers and their children. The church was extremely generous to the program by donating a very nice supply of new baby clothing, diapers, blankets and other items. Superintendent McCauley is very appreciative to Phyllis Newton and all the other Broadway UMC members involved in this wonderful donations.

The huge, motor home looking van parked in front of Westville's Perimeter Office belongs to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). The BMV mobile unit has been at the facility registering offenders for State ID's, while WCC's re-entry team checks for Birth Certificates and Social Security cards. By the end of their visit, Re-Entry Program Director Sandy Sharp and the re-entry team will see 463 offenders.

Ms. Margareth Travessoni, Chief of Police and Deputy Secretary of Transparency and Control from Minas Gerais, Brazil visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to meet with staff and tour the facility. Ms. Travessoni was accompanied on her visit by Stefanie Krevda who serves as the Policy Director and Deputy Legislative Director for Governor Daniels and Justin Hage who serves as Program Director for Government Efficiency and Financial Planning for the State's Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Travessoni is a participant in the "Partners of the Americas" Legislative Fellows Program and is visiting the United States for the purpose of observing the operations of law enforcement and correctional systems in this country.

Branchville Correctional Facility's InterFaith Council held a fundraiser during their Easter Celebration. The group sold pancake breakfasts to the offender population prior to Lent. The event raised over \$1000 which will be sent to Angel Tree, a prison ministry program which provides Christmas gifts to the children of incarcerated men and women.

Several residents from Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility participated in a home rehabilitation for Habitat for Humanity of Indianapolis. The home is located on Winthrop Drive in Indianapolis and once completed will be donated to a family registered through Habitat for Humanity.